

**REP.
RUSH
HOLT**

Upcoming Town Hall Meeting

www.holt.house.gov

Please come join me at my next town meeting to discuss job creation, retirement security, Medicare and prescription drugs, education, hometown security, open space, and any other issues that are on your mind. The next meeting will be on:

Monday, August 2

7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Marlboro Community Center –
Room #3 (1996 Recreation Way,
Marlboro)

Also, please visit my website at www.holt.house.gov to learn about additional town meetings, legislation that I am working on, and to sign-up for my occasional e-mail newsletter, the **eGenda**.

REPRESENTATIVE RUSH HOLT

*As your Congressman,
I am here to help.
Contact me any time.*

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To learn more or to send me an e-mail, go to: www.holt.house.gov

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REPRESENTATIVE RUSH HOLT



Report To Central New Jersey Women

JULY 2004

Dear Friend:

Women in Central New Jersey are meeting a range of challenges. As your representative in Congress, I am working to ensure that the federal government fulfills its commitment to addressing the issues that matter most to families and individuals living in our community. I have enclosed articles detailing my efforts to address some of these challenges, such as quality health care, pay equity, home town security, and educating our youngsters in math and science.

The state of the world is also affecting families here at home. Parents in New Jersey are being asked to send their sons and daughters to Iraq and Afghanistan, and more are being activated at this writing. I firmly believe we need to ensure that our troops have the support they need to do their job – support that includes the best equipment, a plan for improving the security situation on the ground, increased support from our allies, and a realistic exit strategy to bring them home.

There are many other issues. Here I touch on a few. I hope you will find these articles useful and informative. In order to better represent you, I need to hear from you. Please let me know what else is on your mind, and how I can be of assistance to you.

Sincerely,

Rush Holt
Member of Congress

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Renewing the Call for a Patients' Bill of Rights

www.holt.house.gov

Earlier this year, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that, unless Congress passes legislation, patients are blocked from holding HMOs accountable even if they are harmed by the denial of medically necessary treatment. As a result, federal action is sorely needed. I strongly support renewed action to pass a meaningful Patient's Bill of Rights. This critical legislation would guarantee patients certain rights, including:

- The right to choose your own doctor;
- The right to ensure that medical decisions are made by physicians and patients, not by HMO bureaucrats;
- The right to appeal to a fair, independent, external review board if needed care is denied by an HMO; and
- The right to hold an HMO accountable if its negligent medical decisions result in injury or harm.



Rush addresses the rising cost of health care and the need for a Patients' Bill of Rights Act at a recent town hall meeting.

A real Patient's Bill of Rights would put medical decisions back in the hands of doctors and patients, and would go a long way toward restoring the doctor-patient relationship and improving the quality of health care overall. ▶

Equal Pay for Equal Work

Since 1963, employers have been required by law to pay men and women equally for equal work. Yet more than 40 years later, women are still paid less than men – even when they have similar education, skills, and experience. According to the Institute for Women's

Policy Research, women receive 77 cents for every dollar earned by their male colleagues for performing the same work. The 23-cent difference is called the "pay gap."

Equal pay is an issue of basic fairness, but it's more than that. It's also about family economics. Four out of five households depend on a woman's income to make ends meet, and as a result, the pay gap reduces total family income. That means less money for education, retirement savings, childcare, groceries, housing, and other necessities.

I am a co-sponsor and strong supporter of the Paycheck Fairness Act. This bill would amend the Equal Pay Act (EPA) and the Civil Rights Act to provide more effective remedies to women who are not receiving equal wages for equal work. For the first time, the Paycheck Fairness Act would put gender-based wage discrimination on the same legal footing as that based on race or ethnicity. ▶

DID YOU KNOW THAT...?

Over the course of her lifetime, the average 25-year-old working woman will lose more than \$523,000 to unequal pay. Slowly, the wage gap is closing. But if Congress does nothing and the rate of change remains the same, working women in New Jersey won't have equal pay for four or five more decades.

Improving Math and Science Education

www.holt.house.gov

Our young people not only deserve a high quality education, they need it. The continued growth of technology means that succeeding in tomorrow's economy will require strong skills in math and science.

As a former teacher and research scientist, I understand the value of a quality education. That is why I serve on the House Committee on

Education and the Workforce, where I fight to ensure that local schools receive the resources they need to recruit and train high quality teachers. In committee, I was able to improve legislation in the following ways:



As a member of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce, Rush is working to strengthen math and science education.

- I amended the Teacher Recruitment and Retention Act (H.R. 438) so that people who go into the math and science education have their student loans forgiven on an accelerated schedule. This will encourage talented and capable young people who may be considering more lucrative careers to enter the field of teaching.
- A second amendment increased funds for recruiting teachers from fields outside of education, such as science and engineering. This will bring additional expertise to classrooms and provide a new path for people looking to change careers.
- I also worked on a bipartisan basis to increase federal funding for Math and Science Partnerships from \$12 million to \$150 million in the past two years. This valuable program is focused on deepening the knowledge and teaching skills of classroom teachers.

Next to parents, educators are the most important influence in a young person's life. We owe it to them and our young people to ensure that they have the background and training they need to teach math and science. ▶

Homeland Security

Too often in Washington, policy makers ask whether our communities and borders are as safe as they used to be. This is the wrong question. The right question is whether we are as safe as we **ought** to be. I believe a great deal more needs to be done before we meet that standard, and I am working in Congress to:

- Increase funding for homeland security, including funding for local police departments, fire houses, and emergency response teams;
- Integrate New Jersey's premier search and rescue team, Task Force 1, within the national network of emergency response teams;
- Persuade U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to target federal funds for



Rush Holt is working to increase federal funding to make our local communities safer.

terrorism preparedness to high-density areas like New Jersey; and

- Pass the National Security Language Act (H.R. 3676), legislation I have written to increase federal investment in foreign language training. Enactment of this legislation would improve foreign language education and expand our nation's pool of linguists in critical languages such as Arabic, Korean, and Pashto. ▶